

96-262

RECEIVED

OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SUSAN NESS

SUNSHINE PERIOD

May 1, 1997

Susan Ness, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW, Room 832
Washington, D.C. 20054

MAY 5 3 02 PM '97

RECEIVED

MAY 6 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Dear Commissioner Ness:

I write in support of meaningful discounts on telecommunications services for schools and libraries so that every school child and life-long learner can have access to the world of information technology. The Telecommunications Act - through its Universal Service Fund provisions - mandates the development of special discount rates for all schools and libraries so that they can secure services at affordable prices.

There is no doubt that advanced telecommunications services are important to improving learning, sparking the imagination and leveling the playing field for all our nation's people. Affordable access to technology in all classrooms and libraries will assure that our children and life-learners can connect with the technology they would need to compete in today's and tomorrow's workforce. Advanced telecommunications services in the classroom will also create informed and skilled consumers of new technology well into the 21st century. As of now our school system is unable to afford Internet capabilities to extend access to each classroom. Our local telephone company has been reluctant to give our schools reduced rates. We would like for our students to have the same opportunities that are afforded to students in more affluent areas. Without the passage of the Telecommunications Act, there is very little hope that we will ever be able to provide this opportunity.

Last November, the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service sent to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) a set of recommendations for implementing the Universal Service Fund provisions related to the schools and libraries. These recommendations would give our learning institutions significant discounts on all services that are commercially available, with deeper discounts for those schools and libraries least able to pay and more expensive to service. All schools would get discounts on connections to classrooms and Internet connectivity, both of which are essential to providing the most advanced learning opportunities to the greatest number of students.

I urge your support for the Joint Board's recommendations. Taken as a whole, they will provide affordable discounts for a full range of services needed to meet each community's diverse needs. Most importantly, these provisions, if adopted by the FCC, will make advanced technology for learning available to all Americans.

Sincerely,

Ethel Ann Dwyer

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Sincerely,

Cue Herndon, Media Specialist
Zelfan County Primary School
McRae, Georgia 31055

May 1, 1997

Susan Ness, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW, Room 832
Washington, D.C. 20054

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Sincerely,

Betty B. Yarmadze

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SUSAN NESS

MAY 5 3 03 PM '97

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

May 1, 1997

Susan Ness, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW, Room 832
Washington, D.C. 20054

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Sincerely,

Delores Young

46-262

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May 1, 1997

Susan Ness, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW, Room 832
Washington, D.C. 20054

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Dear Commissioner Ness:

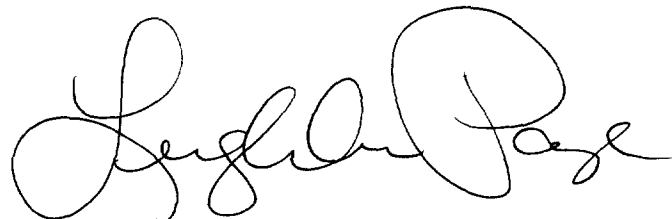
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SUSAN N. NISS

MAY 5 2 53 PM '97

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

May 1, 1997

Susan Ness, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW, Room 832
Washington, D.C. 20054

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Sincerely,

Pam Walker

Susan Ness, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW, Room 832
Washington, D. C. 20054

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Sincerely,


Nette McLean
Concerned Parent

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OFFICE OF
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SUSAN NESS

May 1, 1997

MAY 5 2 54 PM '97

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Susan Ness, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW, Room 832
Washington, D.C. 20054

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Sincerely,

Lisa Cook
423 Hummingbird Lane
M.D. Morris 31155

96-262

RECEIVED

OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SUSAN L. NISS

SUNSHINE PERIOD

The School District of Haverford Township
COOPERTOWN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

800 Coopertown Road • Bryn Mawr, PA 19010 • 610-853-5920.

April 29, 1997

The Honorable Susan Ness
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

RECEIVED

MAY - 6 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Dear Commissioner Ness,

As an elementary principal in the School District of Haverford Township, I would like to thank you for your support and dedication to education that will ensure Internet connection to every school student in Pennsylvania. This means all schools, including our own, along with the libraries in our communities, will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan guarantees that even the poorest schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet. With that connection, each student will be provided with distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 million a year will address the needs of our schools and, more importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. The inclusion of internal classroom connections at a discount is vital. The plan is essential to prepare students for tomorrow's work force.

Passage of this Act will allow our computer use to connect our students to the world, not only technologically, but personally. We all know thinking globally will be important for the future of our state and our country. Connecting to the world through computers will help our students learn and understand issues on a world-wide basis. Being able to connect with our county library system will also give us access to additional learning materials quickly and easily. Our children's future and the future of every child in Pennsylvania will depend on this program.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Sincerely,



Carol Restifo

96-262

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SUNSHINE PERIOD

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COMMISSIONER
SUNSHINE PERIOD

May 1, 1997

MAY 5 2 53 PM '97 RECEIVED

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Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW, Room 832
Washington, D.C. 20054

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Sincerely,

Jeanne Vaughan

96-262

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OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SUSAN NESS

SUNSHINE PERIOD

The School District of Haverford Township

MANOA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL '97

101 South Manoa Road • Havertown, PA 19083 • 610-853-5940.

April 29, 1997

The Honorable Susan Ness
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

RECEIVED

MAY 6 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Dear Commissioner Ness,

As the middle school principal in the School District of Haverford Township, I would like to thank you for your support and dedication to education that will ensure Internet connection to every school student in Pennsylvania. This means all schools, including our own, along with the libraries in our communities, will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

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Passage of this Act will allow our computer use to connect our students to the world, not only technologically, but personally. We all know thinking globally will be important for the future of our state and our country. Connecting to the world through computers will help our students learn and understand issues on a world-wide basis. Being able to connect with our county library system will also give us access to additional learning materials quickly and easily. Our children's future and the future of every child in Pennsylvania will depend on this program.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Sincerely,

Michael Walker

Dr. Michael Walker

96-262
SUNSHINE PERIOD
OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SUSAN N. NISS
MAY 5 2 51 PM '97

The School District of Haverford Township
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
1801 Darby Road • Havertown, PA 19083 • 610-853-5909.

April 29, 1997

The Honorable Susan Ness
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

RECEIVED

MAY 6 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Dear Commissioner Ness,

As the Superintendent of Schools in the School District of Haverford Township, I would like to thank you for your support and dedication to education that will ensure Internet connection to every school student in Pennsylvania. This means all schools, including our own, along with the libraries in our communities, will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

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Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Sincerely,



Ewald Kalmbach

96-26.2

RECEIVED
SUNSHINE PERIOD

The School District of Haverford Township
OAKMONT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

50 South Eagle Road • Havertown, PA 19083 • 610-853-5950.

April 29, 1997

The Honorable Susan Ness
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

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Federal Communications Commission
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Sincerely,

Audrone Meskauskas

Dr. Audrone Meskauskas

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MAY 5 2 37 PM '97

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Wednesday, April 30, 1997

Dear Commissioner Ness

I am writing to you in regards to the federal "E-Rate" Telecommunications Discount Program. I am an educator from Fort Sage Unified School District, and I would like to express my strong support for this program and the proposed regulations governing its implementation.

The Telecommunications Act of 1996 and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have access to the Internet and the ability to provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of school across the country, and more importantly, the plan will bring telecommunications services directly to the classrooms, where they can have the greatest impact on students. It is important to remember that each element of this plan is vital to the overall success of the discount program. Therefore, the inclusion of discounts for internal classroom connections should not be eliminated, nor should the size of the Universal Service Fund be reduced. As I am sure you are aware, this program is essential for preparing our students to enter the work force of tomorrow.

The E-Rate Telecommunications Discount Program is desperately overdue and our students need these discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge you and the other FCC commissioners to fully support the recommendations of the Joint Board and approve the proposed final regulations regarding the discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,



Kathleen C. West
Teacher, Fort Sage Unified School District



Gail M. Tissier, Ed.D.
Superintendent

RECEIVED
916-262
Santa Maria-Bonita
School District

SUNSHINE PERIOD

SOUZA STUDENT SUPPORT CENTER
708 South Miller Street
Santa Maria, CA 93454-6221
(805) 928-1783, Ext. 235

RECEIVED

May 1, 1997

MAY 6 1997 SENT VIA FACSIMILE & U. S. MAIL

Ms. Susan Ness, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St., NW, Rm. 832
Washington DC 20554
Office of Secretary

Dear Ms. Ness:

The Santa Maria-Bonita School District, located on the Central Coast of California, is involved in implementing its long-range technology plan. Because most of our schools are over 30 years old, each needs to be rewired to meet the demands of technology. We have gone to bid for the wiring of our classrooms and each time the cost has been prohibitive.

It is our understanding that on May 8, 1997, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) will vote on the final rules for dispersing as much as \$2.25 billion in telecommunications discounts for schools and libraries. This truly is a miracle! Our schools drastically need this support to bring educational technology to our children to meet the demands of the 21st Century.

Our school board set aside some money, however, it is not enough to bring the infrastructure of educational technology to our students' classrooms. Also, if we use this money to wire our schools then there will be no money left to purchase the hardware and software necessary to integrate our curriculum with the wonderful software support systems that presently exist for children.

The Santa Maria-Bonita School District strongly encourages the FCC to approve the recommendations of the Federal-State Joint Board for Universal Service for implementation of the discount plan to meet the requirements of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

Our school district has a very high concentration of economically disadvantaged students. These students need all the help and support that can be provided to assist them in reaching high academic standards. By approving the Federal-State Joint Board for Universal Service recommendations for implementation of the discount plan, you will greatly help bring about the academic success of our students.

Our students will truly be engaged in a global world of communications broadening their understanding of the world in which they live. Please make this miracle become a reality for our students by voting to approve the Federal-State Joint Board for Universal Service recommendations.

Sincerely,

Gail M. Tissier
GAIL M. TISSIER, Ed.D.
SUPERINTENDENT

c SMBSD Board of Education
The Honorable Barbara Boxer
The Honorable Walter Capps
The Honorable Diane Feinstein
State Superintendent Delaine Eastin
California Public Utilities Commission

Student Success Is Our Business

96-262

RECEIVED
OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SUSAN NESS

SUNSHINE PERIOD

MAY 5 2 34 PM '97

April 30, 1997

Susan Ness, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 832
Washington, D.C. 20554

RECEIVED

MAY 6 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Dear Commissioner:

We, a coalition of Alaska's educational leaders, are writing to urge your approval of the recommendations of the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service. Those recommendations will come before you on May 8.

Affordable access to advanced telecommunications is an essential element of equal educational opportunity in Alaska. Affordable access to advanced technologies can mean that, for the first time, a student in a remote village will have access to the same abundance of learning resources and opportunities to interact with people from different cultures and experiences that is available to any other child in the United States.

The Joint Board's recommendations can lead to an economic, as well as an educational breakthrough for Alaskans, allowing our students to acquire the skills to compete in a global workforce and to grow into consumers of new technology into the 21st century.

Powerful forces may tell you that the discounts provided for education in the Joint Board's recommendations are not needed. Others may say that school districts wouldn't know what to do with advanced telecommunications if they were available. Neither assertion is true. Alaskan school districts stand ready to put the technology to use to improve student learning if and when schools are able to access it through the discounts recommended by the Joint Board, including connections to classrooms and Internet connectivity.

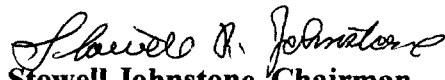
America has refused to accept any less a standard for its children than equal educational opportunity--without regard to the accident of birth or geography.

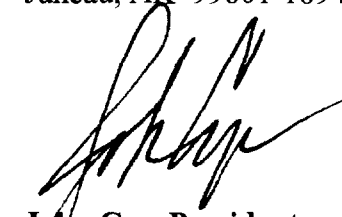
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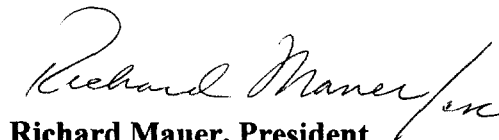
Your vote for the Joint Board's recommendations will honor and advance this standard for the students in our charge.


Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of the unique needs of Alaska's children.


Sincerely,

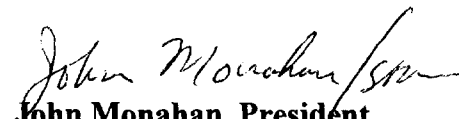

Stowell Johnstone, Chairman
Alaska State Board of Education
801 W. 10th St., Suite 200
Juneau, AK 99801-1894


John Cyr, President
National Education Association-Alaska
114 Second St.
Juneau, AK 99801


Richard Mauer, President
Association of Alaska School Boards
316 W. 11th St.
Juneau, AK 99801-1510


Lou Matheson, President
Alaska Association of Secondary
School Principals
1720 Otter Street
Anchorage, AK 99504


Fredi Buffmire
Alaska Association of Elementary
School Principals
426 Rogers Rd.
Kenai, AK 99611


John Monahan, President
Alaska Association of School
Administrators
326 4th St., #404
Juneau, AK 99801

cc: The Honorable Fran Ulmer
Lieutenant Governor, State of Alaska

Jerilyn S. McIntyre
Interim President



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COMMUNICATIONS

SUNSHINE PERIOD

MAY 5 2 32 PM '97

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April 30, 1997

MAY 6 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Commissioner Susan Ness
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20054
Via Fax (202) 418-2821

Re: Ex Parte Communication in CC Docket No. 96-262
Priority: Urgent (FCC to vote on proposal May 6, 1977)

Dear Commissioner Ness:

It has come to the attention of the University of Utah that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is considering a proposal that will target multi-line business customers as a resource to support an initiative to upgrade the internal wiring and network accessibility of public K-12 schools and libraries, access to the network for rural health care facilities, and increase lifeline services.

As a higher education institution with a six-hundred-bed teaching hospital and the home of the Utah Education Network responsible for supporting distance learning throughout the entire state of Utah, we fully recognize the importance of this initiative. However, as a 12,000-line Centrex customer, the proposed method of funding would likely be the undoing of our own communication infrastructure.

It is our understanding that the Chairman of the FCC is considering the following increases:

- The cap on business multi-line Subscriber Line Charges (SLC) may be raised from \$6.00 per line to \$9.50 per line per month, including Centrex lines.
- A Pre-Subscribed Line (PSL) surcharge will be imposed on business users. The charge is anticipated to be \$4.50 per multi-line business line. The \$4.50 per month charge would also apply to each Centrex line.

Office of the President

203 Park Building
Salt Lake City, Utah 84112
(801) 581-5701
FAX (801) 581-6892

Commissioner Susan Ness
April 30, 1997
Page Two

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COMMISSIONER
SUSAN N. NISS
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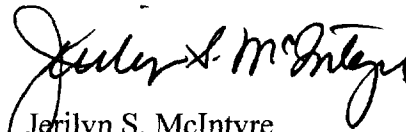
- The Salt Lake City cap on second residential lines may be raised from \$3.50 to \$6.00 per month. This will affect University employees and students who telecommute.
- Cellular, PCS, and paging customers may be assessed a \$1.00 fee per telephone number per month.

If these rate increases are approved, the annual impact to the University of Utah will exceed \$1,152,000. This amount is greater than our total annual budget for campus networking and infrastructure renovation, thereby rendering helpless the very institution that is responsible for supporting K-12 distance learning and rural health care services in Utah.

In addition to the proposed increases, the University of Utah also stands to lose an additional \$78,000 per year of revenue if the Interstate access charges are cut by 40 to 50 percent as proposed by the FCC.

Due to the disproportionate share of responsibility the proposed plan places on the University of Utah, in an effort to accomplish the universal service social agenda, I strongly encourage you help us convince the Chairman of the FCC to reconsider his proposed plan and seek more equitable means of funding.

Sincerely,


Jerilyn S. McIntyre
Interim President

JSM/lm

cc: Thomas G. Nycum, Vice President for Administrative Services

96-262

SUNSHINE PERIOD RECEIVED

OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
MAY 1 1997

The School District of Haverford Township

LYNNEWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

1400 Lawrence Road • Havertown, PA 19083 • 610-853-5930.

April 29, 1997

The Honorable Susan Ness
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

RECEIVED

MAY 6 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Dear Commissioner Ness,

As an elementary principal in the School District of Haverford Township, I would like to thank you for your support and dedication to education that will ensure Internet connection to every school student in Pennsylvania. This means all schools, including our own, along with the libraries in our communities, will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan guarantees that even the poorest schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet. With that connection, each student will be provided with distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 million a year will address the needs of our schools and, more importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. The inclusion of internal classroom connections at a discount is vital. The plan is essential to prepare students for tomorrow's work force.

Passage of this Act will allow our computer use to connect our students to the world, not only technologically, but personally. We all know thinking globally will be important for the future of our state and our country. Connecting to the world through computers will help our students learn and understand issues on a world-wide basis. Being able to connect with our county library system will also give us access to additional learning materials quickly and easily. Our children's future and the future of every child in Pennsylvania will depend on this program.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Sincerely,



Edward Pratt

46-262

SUNSHINE PERIOD

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OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
2 30 11 '97

The School District of Haverford Township
MANOA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

101 South Manoa Road • Havertown, PA 19083 • 610-853-5940.

April 29, 1997

The Honorable Susan Ness
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

RECEIVED

MAY 6 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Dear Commissioner Ness,

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Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Sincerely,

Dr. Michael Walker

Dr. Michael Walker

96-262

SUNSHINE PERIOD

The School District of Haverford Township

HAVERFORD HIGH SCHOOL

200 Mill Road • Havertown, PA 19083 • 610-853-5905.

April 29, 1997

The Honorable Susan Ness
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

RECEIVED

MAY 6 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Dear Commissioner Ness,

As the high school principal in the School District of Haverford Township, I would like to thank you for your support and dedication to education that will ensure Internet connection to every school student in Pennsylvania. This means all schools, including our own, along with the libraries in our communities, will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

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Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Sincerely,


John Meehan

96-262

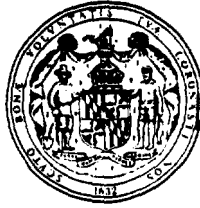
STATE OF MARYLAND

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COMMISSIONERS

H. RUSSELL FRISBY, JR.
CHAIRMAN

CLAUDE M. LIGON
E. MASON HENDRICKSON
SUSANNE BROGAN
GERALD L. THORPE



OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SUNSHINE PERIOD

MAY 5 5 33 PM '97

BRYAN G. MOORHOUSE
GENERAL COUNSEL
DANIEL P. GAHAGAN
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
GREGORY V. CARMEAN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

WILLIAM DONALD SCHAEFER TOWER
6 ST. PAUL STREET
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21202-6806
(410) 767-8000
FAX NUMBER (410) 333-6495

SUNSHINE PERIOD

April 22, 1997

RECEIVED

MAY 6 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate some concerns regarding the high cost assistance fund proposals which the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") currently is considering. The Joint Board's Recommended Decision proposed a universal service plan with three components. One component is the high cost program to transfer funds to eligible communications carriers serving high cost areas. Variations on this proposal have been and continue to be proposed by different parties. It is my contention that no proposal which would increase the size of the high cost fund should be adopted, and furthermore that none of the proposed "proxy models" are sufficiently developed so as to permit their use at this time.

Under almost every option presented to date, Maryland is a net contributor to the high cost fund. Under some proposals, Maryland ratepayers' monthly bills would increase by up to approximately \$2.00 per month. Maryland ratepayers do not have the excess financial resources necessary to subsidize telecommunication providers in other states. It is patently unfair that rates for Maryland subscribers should be forced to rise in an effort to keep rates low in other areas of the country. At a minimum, we would be forced to assert that such costs should be allocated on a company-wide and not state-specific basis, or on some other more equitable basis.

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt
Page 2
April 22, 1997


I am very concerned that some specific elements of the proposals being considered will have the effect of unduly burdening users of telecommunications services in Maryland. The Maryland Public Service Commission has labored extensively over the past several years to foster competition in Maryland. If the federal high cost fund is not structured appropriately, the subsidy collected will have the effect of distorting the telecommunications marketplace and ultimately will hamper robust competition.

For these reasons, the proposed high cost fund should be narrowly designed to direct support to truly high cost areas. The FCC's focus should be on providing a predictable, explicit, and competitively neutral way of funding the high cost fund at existing levels rather than changing the size of the fund. It is essential to have a high cost assistance program of the correct scope in order to ensure that consumers are not overburdened in funding the new program.

I strongly urge the FCC to avoid expanding the high cost fund beyond its current scope. I further urge the FCC not to go forward with a final decision on the size and scope of the high cost fund at this point. Instead, I strongly support the proposal that the Joint Board be reconvened and that the issue be referred to it. This would permit all concerned to further consider the proxy models and other plans which have been proposed with the hope of reaching some accommodation.

Finally, please be advised that these opinions represent those of the author and not necessarily those of the Maryland Public Service Commission.

Sincerely,


H. Russell Frisby, Jr.
Chairman

cc: Commissioner James H. Quello
Commissioner Susan Ness
Commissioner Rachelle B. Chong

HRF:SSM:lsm